

Successful resource management for wildlife is the correct application of a combination of practices that will (1) meet the needs of the desired species, (2) protect the ecosystem that supports the species, and (3) satisfy the objectives of the landowner.

Arkansas provides habitats for more than 700 species of vertebrate animals, including fishes, birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians and about 2500 species of vascular plants. The forests, grassland, croplands, wetlands, and odd areas in Arkansas provide habitats for this diverse fauna and flora.

White-tailed deer, the most popular big game species in Arkansas, occupies all land user listed in Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide. Other popular wildlife in Arkansas includes gray and fox squirrels, wild turkey, mallard duck, wood duck, Canada goose, mourning dove, and bobwhite quail. These species can benefit from conservation and appropriate management on the land uses in this section.

Some landowners request assistance for planning and management of recreational fishing in private ponds and lakes. Largemouth bass, channel catfish, bluegill and redear sunfish, fathead minnows, and white amur (grass carp) are commonly stocked and managed in Arkansas' private ponds and lakes.

Twenty-six species of plants and animals in Arkansas are currently listed as threatened or endangered by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Resource Management Systems must be planned on all landusers that will not adversely affect these species or their critical habitats. Most species of plants and animals in Arkansas are managed for neither recreational nor commercial purposes. A very small percentage are threatened or endangered. The remaining species should also be considered when planning RMS's.

When planning a wildlife RMS on other land uses, use RMS guides developed for the appropriate major land use in addition to guidance for wildlife. For instance, when planning for white-tailed deer on forestland, the planner must use RMS's for both forestland and wildlife (forestland).

Pond management is covered under the Recreation Land RMS.

RMS's addressing wildlife included in Section III: Crop, Range, Forest, Recreation Land, Wildlife, Pasture, Native Pasture, and Hay.

RMS's for wildlife include a combination of practices that are:

1. **Essential** – These practices are essential to providing habitat (food, cover, water, and space in suitable arrangement) for the desired species. These practices must be planned.
2. **Desirable** – These practices facilitate or enhance the essential practices to manage and protect the total ecosystem, especially threatened and endangered species.
3. **Optional** – These practices enhance other practices to accomplish land user's objectives.

The following practices are applicable to wildlife:

Essential Practices

- Commercial Fishponds
- Constructed Wetland
- Early Successional Habitat Development/Management
- Fishpond Management
- Prescribed Burning
- Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- Shallow Water Management for Wildlife
- Structure, Water Control
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Wetland Creation
- Wetland Enhancement
- Wetland Restoration
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

Desirable Practices

- Brush Management
- Conservation Cover
- Conservation Tillage
- Deferred Grazing
- Planned Grazing Systems
- Pond
- Proper Grazing Use
- Proper Woodland Grazing
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Wildlife Watering Facility

Optional Practices

Cover & Green Manure Crops	Firebreak
Critical Area Planting	Forest Stand Improvement
Crop Residue Use	Grass & Legumes in Rotation
Dam, FWR	Hedgerow Planting
Dam, Multiple Purpose	Livestock Exclusion
Delayed Seedbed Preparation	Pastureland & Hayland Management
Dike	Pipeline
Field Border	Range Seeding
Field Windbreak	Streambank/Shoreline Protection
Filter Strip	Well

WILDLIFE LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RMRS)
All "E" and "S" Soils

Existing Conditions: The typical land unit consists of soils well drained to moderately drained, deep to shallow, with slopes from 0 to 60%. Land units intensively managed for wildlife are generally those with slopes of less than 30%. Although some land units have management limitations due to droughtiness or stoniness, most are well suited for wildlife habitat depending on the species of concern. On all soils, a wildlife RMS is met when proper quantity, quality, and distribution of food, cover, and water are met for the species of concern. In most of Arkansas, steeper land is best suited for woody species and is managed for woodland wildlife. Flat to moderately sloping land managed for cropland or pastureland generally have odd areas or small unmanageable areas that are managed for wildlife land. Larger fields are on occasion managed solely for the production of wildlife food and cover plants. This is generally due to a high potential for erosion, limited available water holding capacity, low soil fertility, landowner objectives, or a combination of these. On the flatter slopes conventional tillage is adequate for wildlife plant establishment, but soil erosion is of major concern, and sloping land may require a conservation tillage system for establishment of plants.

The RMS in this example is based on existing wildlife land including six abandoned pastures covering 112 acres of fescue, bermudagrass, broomsedge, and native forbs. The pastures are separated by fine forested plots of 174 acres including blackjack oak, elms, northern red oak, white oak, persimmon, and black cherry.

	Soil					Water		Air	Plant				Animal				
	Erosion		Condition		Depositi on	Quality		Quality	Condition		Management		Habitat			Management	
	Sheet and Rill Erosion	Streambank Erosion	Soil Compaction	Excess fertilizer & pesticides	Sediment damage- offsite	Surface Water Contaminants			Productivity	Health & vigor	Establishment	Pests	Food	Cover	Water	Population & Resource Balance	Animal Health
						Nutrients	Sediment										
Quality Criteria Met	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UWHM (645)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+
Grasses & Legumes	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+
Forest Stand Improvement (666)	-	-	-	0	-	0	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+
Woodland Improved	-	-	-	0	-	0	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+

